

Message

From: Goldberg, Ruby [Goldberg.Ruby@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/26/2022 8:25:30 PM
To: Breen, Barry [Breen.Barry@epa.gov]; Waterhouse, Carlton [Waterhouse.Carlton@epa.gov]; Heard, Anne [Heard.Anne@epa.gov]; Hilosky, Nick [Hilosky.Nick@epa.gov]; Brooks, Becky [Brooks.Becky@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: crypto report

Hello!

Regarding the question below, I believe ORCR has some equities (**Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**)
Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) Are there any other programs that you all spot as having equities that we should reach out to?

Ruby

From: Cope, Grant <Cope.Grant@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 1:57 PM
To: Hilosky, Nick <Hilosky.Nick@epa.gov>; Brooks, Becky <Brooks.Becky@epa.gov>; Breen, Barry <Breen.Barry@epa.gov>; Heard, Anne <Heard.Anne@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: crypto report

Hi Anne, Barry, Nick, and Becky,

I hope this message finds you doing well.

Following up, I wanted to ask which staff members OLEM would like to work on the issues that touch on OLEM's jurisdiction in the OSTP crypto mining report?

Since OSTP has asked for comments on the outline back in two weeks and also has an aggressive schedule for report production, I wanted to get a meeting on the calendar this week.

Please let me know, too, if you'd like to touch base on this issue.

Best,

Grant

From: Waterhouse, Carlton <Waterhouse.Carlton@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 9:51 AM
To: Cope, Grant <Cope.Grant@epa.gov>
Cc: Goffman, Joseph <Goffman.Joseph@epa.gov>; Hilosky, Nick <Hilosky.Nick@epa.gov>; Brooks, Becky <Brooks.Becky@epa.gov>; Breen, Barry <Breen.Barry@epa.gov>; Heard, Anne <Heard.Anne@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: crypto report

Thank you Grant. I suspect you may already be connected with the proper program but just in case I have included our team to make sure you get connected to the correct program and staff in ORCR. Thank you for covering the 4 pm call.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 25, 2022, at 9:45 AM, Cope, Grant <Cope.Grant@epa.gov> wrote:

Joe and Carlton,

Two quick things.

OSTP sent out this agenda for today's meeting at 4. If we don't have staff identified to attend the meeting before 4 today, I can cover the meeting and report back.

Also, OSTP has said they're asking for comments within two weeks.

My apologies for the earlier message on timing, that was based on my conversation last week with OSTP.

Grant

From: Goffman, Joseph <Goffman.Joseph@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 6:31 AM
To: Cope, Grant <Cope.Grant@epa.gov>; Waterhouse, Carlton <Waterhouse.Carlton@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: crypto report

Got it. Thanks.

Joseph Goffman
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Air and Radiation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

From: Cope, Grant <Cope.Grant@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 9:14 AM
To: Waterhouse, Carlton <Waterhouse.Carlton@epa.gov>; Goffman, Joseph <Goffman.Joseph@epa.gov>
Subject: crypto report

Hi Joe and Carlton,

I wanted to send a quick note to follow-up on the OSTP crypto report to ask if OAR and OLEM can please identify one staff person to work with OSTP and other federal agencies to draft sections of a report on the environmental impacts of crypto mining?

I have attached the EO requiring the report, excerpted portions of the EO, below, and a draft outline that OSTP put together, which identifies issues for OLEM or OAR to cover.

As you can see from the outline, the topics touch on more issues than an individual staff member from OAR or OLEM likely covers. Therefore, we'll likely need more than one staff member to internally produce text and have the staff members working with OSTP deliver that text. Also, I have separately reached out to OW to ask how they would like to handle the text that includes issues in their jurisdiction.

Is it possible to send this outline to staff members and get their input on any potential modifications today?

OSTP also called a meeting today at 4 PM. Please If it's possible to identify people to work with OSTP by then,

I'm available to talk, too, at any point.

Best,

Grant

EO Excerpts:

The March 9, 2022 EO on Ensuring Responsible Development of Digital Assets states: "The United States has an interest in ensuring that digital asset technologies and the digital payments ecosystem are developed, designed, and implemented in a responsible manner that includes privacy and security in their architecture, integrates features and controls that defend against illicit exploitation, and reduces negative climate impacts and environmental pollution, as may result from some cryptocurrency mining." (emphasis added) The EO designates US EPA as part of the interagency process.

Within 180 days of the order, the EO requires a report "to the President on the connections between distributed ledger technology and short-, medium-, and long-term economic and energy transitions; the potential for these technologies to impede or advance efforts to tackle climate change at home and abroad; and the impacts these technologies have on the environment...The report should also address the effect of cryptocurrencies' consensus mechanisms on energy usage, including research into potential mitigating measures and alternative mechanisms of consensus and the design tradeoffs those may entail.

The EO goes on to say: "The report should specifically address: (A) potential uses of blockchain that could support monitoring or mitigating technologies to climate impacts, such as exchanging of liabilities for greenhouse gas emissions, water, and other natural or environmental assets; and (B) implications for energy policy, including as it relates to grid management and reliability, energy efficiency incentives and standards, and sources of energy supply."

The EO requires an updated report within a year.

Grant Cope (*he, him, his*)
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US Environmental Protection Agency
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